

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, D.C.

September 17, 2013

WHITE HOUSE SPORTSMEN ROUNDTABLE

DATE: September 19, 2013

LOCATION: White House Eisenhower Executive Office Building
Room 210

EVENT TIME: 2:30pm- 3:30pm

ARRIVAL TIME: 2:20pm

YOUR TIME: 2:45pm- 2:50pm

CONTACT: Brian Bond (202-604-0045)

I. Purpose

This is a follow up roundtable discussion based on an earlier roundtable discussion on conservation with conservation groups, foundations, and outdoor recreation associations. The purpose of this meeting is to reinforce the 1st term accomplishments, take credit for the recent developments on Waters of the United States, and make asks of the sportsmen community to continue to be vocal about their conservation priorities despite a hostile House of Representatives.

This group is representative of the leading stakeholder voices in the sportsmen and conservation community and is looking for more clear indication of the Administration's support for their priority programs and policies.

II. Participants

- **YOU**
- Secretary Sally Jewell, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Secretary Tim Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Pete Rouse, Counselor to the President, White House
- Nancy Sutley, Chair, White House Council of Environmental Quality
- Whit Fosburgh, President & CEO, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
- Larry Schweiger, President, National Wildlife Federation
- Steve Williams, President, Wildlife Management Institute
- Ron Regan, Executive Director, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
- Dale Hall, CEO, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
- Frank Hugelmeyer, President & CEO, Outdoor Industry Association
- Scott Kovarovics, Executive Director, Izaak Walton League of America

- Stuart White, Research Triangle Cleantech Cluster
- Steve Moyer, Vice President of Government Affairs, Trout Unlimited
- Dr. Gregory Schildwachter, Consultant, Watershed Results LLC
- Michael Nussman, ASA
- Land Tawney, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- George Cooper, ASA
- Miles Moretti, President, Muledeer Foundation

III. Agenda

- 2:30pm-2:35pm INTRODUCTIONS – Pete Rouse opens and goes around the room – turns it over to Whit Fosburgh
- 2:35pm-2:40pm Whit outlines issues of concern - conservation funding/AGO umbrella; WOTUS; Pebble; LWCF; Farm Bill
- 2:40pm-2:42pm Chair Sutley gives welcome and goes over high level discussion of Conservation funding/AGO for Administration
- 2:45pm-2:50pm **YOU** update on Waters of the U.S. and Pebble Mine
- 2:50pm-2:55pm Secretary Jewell updates on LWCF, and DOI efforts
- 2:55pm-3:00pm Secretary Vilsack updates on Farm bill and USDA conservation programs
- 3:00pm-3:30pm Peter Rouse opens floor for Q&A and discussion
- 3:30 pm CONCLUDE

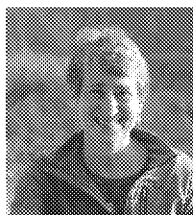
IV. Press

Closed Press

V. Attachments

- Participant Biographies
- Background information on issues

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES



Secretary Sally Jewell, US Department of Interior

Sally Jewell was sworn in as the 51st Secretary of the Interior on April 12, 2013. As Secretary of the Interior, Jewell leads an agency with more than 70,000 employees. Interior serves as steward for approximately 20 percent of the nation's lands, including national parks, national wildlife refuges, and other public lands; oversees the responsible development of conventional and renewable energy supplies on public lands and waters; is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 Western states; and upholds trust responsibilities to the 566 federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives.



Secretary Tim Vilsack, US Department of Agriculture

Tom Vilsack serves as the Nation's 30th Secretary of Agriculture. As leader of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Vilsack is working to strengthen the American agricultural economy, build vibrant rural communities and create new markets for the tremendous innovation of rural America. Prior to his appointment, Vilsack served two terms as the Governor of Iowa, in the Iowa State Senate and as the mayor of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.



Pete Rouse, Counselor to the President, White House

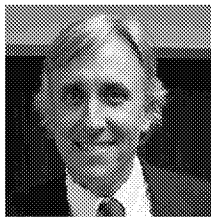
Peter M. Rouse is Counselor to President Barack H. Obama, having previously served as Interim Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor. He was a co-chair of the Obama-Biden Transition Project, a senior adviser to President Obama's campaign, and chief of staff to then-Senator Barack Obama. Known as the "101st Senator" for his extensive knowledge of Congress, Rouse served as chief of staff to members of the United States Congress for more than thirty years.



Nancy Sutley, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality

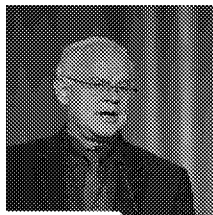
Nancy Sutley is the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). As the principal environmental policy adviser to the President, Sutley helps to develop and coordinate the Administration's environmental and energy policies and initiatives. During her tenure, the Administration has launched a Federal sustainability initiative that has already reduced the Government's greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent; established the first ever National Ocean Policy to support healthy ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources, communities and industries; created the first ever Federal agency climate change resilience plans to protect communities,

infrastructure and natural resources from climate change impacts; and launched the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to support locally driven conservation efforts that expand recreation, create jobs, and protect and restore our most cherished natural resources. Under Sutley, CEQ has also led efforts to modernize implementation of the landmark National Environmental Policy Act to improve the quality and efficiency of Federal environmental reviews, facilitate quicker, more informed decision-making, and increase transparency and accountability. Prior to her appointment as CEQ Chair, Sutley was the Deputy Mayor for Energy and Environment for the City of Los Angeles, California.



Whit Fosburgh, President, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Whit Fosburgh joined TRCP in June 2010. Prior to working at the TRCP, Fosburgh spent 15 years at Trout Unlimited, playing a critical role in the organization's evolution into a conservation powerhouse. Additionally, Fosburgh served as fisheries' director for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, was chief environment and energy staff person for Sen. Tom Daschle and was a wildlife specialist for the National Audubon Society.



Larry Schweiger, President, National Wildlife Federation

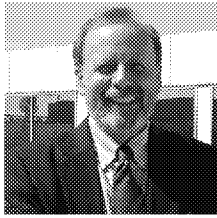
Larry Schweiger is President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Wildlife Federation. He returned to the National Wildlife Federation in March 2004 with a commitment to confront the climate crisis and to protect wildlife for our children's future. Previously, Larry served for eight years as President and CEO of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, where he pioneered watershed restoration and promoted ecological research, land conservation and community outreach. Prior to that, Larry was the Executive Secretary of the Joint House/Senate Conservation Committee for the Pennsylvania General Assembly, Senior Vice President for Conservation Programs at National Wildlife Federation, and 1st Vice President of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.



Steve Williams, President, Wildlife Management Institute

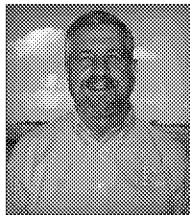
As President of WMI, Steve serves on the Board of Directors for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports, Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, National Conservation Leadership Institute, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partners, and is a professional member of the Boone and Crockett Club and The Wildlife Society. Prior to joining WMI, Steve served as Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Deputy Executive

Director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and Assistant Director for Wildlife and Deer
Project Leader of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.



Ron Regan, Executive Director, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Since Regan joined the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in April 2007, he has staffed the Association's Angler and Boater, Fisheries and Water Resources Policy, Wildlife Resource and Ocean Resource Policy Committees. Regan coordinates state interests for the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation and he oversees the Management Assistance Team. Previously, Regan served for more than 25 years working in wildlife management and conservation in the state of Vermont. In 1999, he was appointed Commissioner of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department a position he held for four years, and he also served as Director of Operations and Director of Wildlife for that Department.



Dale Hall, CEO, Ducks Unlimited

Dale Hall is the current Chief of Staff of Ducks Unlimited. He is the former director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. During Hall's 31-year career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), he served in numerous roles at field office, regional, and national levels. As director, he was responsible for approximately 7,500 USFWS employees working out of the national headquarters and nine regional offices.



Frank Hugelmeyer, President & CEO, Outdoor Industry Association

Frank Hugelmeyer is president & CEO of Outdoor Industry Association (OIA). He is a twenty-four year outdoor industry veteran with extensive experience in retail, brand development, R&D, manufacturing and association management. Since 2002, OIA has been collecting data on the outdoor market from brands and retailers to produce the most accurate and up to date market research available.



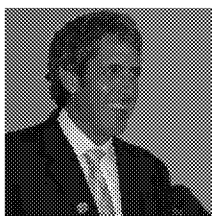
Scott Kovacovics, Executive Director, Izaak Walton League of America

Kovacovics oversees the organization's \$3.5 million budget to directing conservation work and member services. Kovacovics has served as the League's Conservation Director since January 2008. In this role, he worked with League staff, volunteers, partner organizations, government agency staff, and legislators to advance the League's conservation mission.



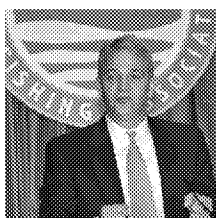
Steve Moyer, Vice President for Government Affairs, Trout Unlimited

Steve leads the volunteer operations program for Trout Unlimited. He works closely with Members of the House and Senate lobbying for clean water and fish-friendly legislation. Steve assists TU members with their state and local advocacy efforts and develops and implements TU grassroots advocacy campaigns. Prior to joining TU, Steve led advocacy efforts at the National Wildlife Federation on behalf of fisheries and wetlands.



Dr. Gregory Schildwachter, Consultant, Watershed Results LLC

Dr. Greg Schildwachter is a professional conservationist with 25 years of experience in the policy, science, and management of land, water, fish, and wildlife. Based in Washington, DC, Greg is also familiar with many communities and habitats across the country. Greg has a strong track record of producing agreements on policies that make sense for state, county, local, and private needs.



Mike Nussman, President, American Sportfishing Association

Nussman assumed his leadership role after serving nine years as an ASA vice president. During that time, he was responsible for lobbying Capitol Hill on critical legislative and regulatory issues affecting the sport fishing industry. Nussman also oversaw the association's economic, conservation and research programs and most recently, the association's trade show, ICAST. Prior to joining the ASA in 1992, Nussman served for nine years as professional staff on the U.S. Senate's Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. There he helped mold U.S. ocean policy while directing the National Oceans Policy Study majority staff. His staff was responsible for providing the Senate guidance for nearly all ocean-related issues, including recreational and commercial fishery management.



Land Tawney, Executive Director, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Land Tawney is the current Executive Director of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. Land has spent his professional career building, energizing and activating hunters and anglers and engaging them in the political process. Prior to his current role, Land was Senior Manager for Sportsmen's Leadership at National Wildlife Federation (NWF). In that capacity Land led a joint campaign with NWF, TRCP and Trout Unlimited called Sportsmen United for Sensible Mining aimed at reforming the 1872 Mining Law. Much of his work has focused on protecting quality places to hunt and fish via roadless areas and promoting volunteer incentives for landowners to provide public access to private lands.



George Cooper, Senior Advisor to the President, ASA

George is the Advisor to the President of the American Sportfishing Association. He is the former President and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP). Prior to his leadership position, he served as the director of communications for TRCP. He played a key role in getting TRCP off the ground.



Miles Moretti, President/CEO, Mule Deer Foundation

Miles Moretti is the current President/CEO at Mule Deer Foundation. He Is responsible for implementing the mission of the foundation through fundraising, partnerships and managing the day to day operation of the organizations. He was the previous Deputy Director for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

Background Information on Key Issues

- **Conservation Funding:** The group will express serious concern over conservation funding across the board, and the Administration's commitment to fighting in support of full funding for conservation programs. There is widespread agreement within the hunting and angling community that conservation funding and programs have taken a significant hit and will be trimmed further to contribute to a comprehensive effort to cut federal spending and reduce the deficit. There is equally strong agreement that this funding and core programs should not bear a disproportionate share of the burden. The groups agree dramatic cuts in conservation will not solve the budget problem, but will undermine effective initiatives that directly benefit hunters and anglers, state fish and wildlife agencies, the American people, and our natural resources.

Our Asks:

- How are Sportsmen groups making uncomfortable those House members and their allies who voted for huge cuts to programs that support conservation?
 - With the upcoming budget fights over the next week or so, what can we do together to highlight what modest investment in conservation can do for our nation's sportsmen?
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- **Farm Bill:** The group will advocate for a comprehensive 5-year Food, Farm and Jobs Bill, and if there is a reauthorization rather than an omnibus bill, for the Administration to push for a farm bill that reauthorizes conservation programs and puts in place strong authorizing limits on program funding, as well as the conservation compliance provision linking crop insurance policies to conservation plans. Congressional leaders including Senate Agriculture Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) have expressed doubt that a new farm bill will be passed into law by the Sept. 30th deadline but have expressed some confidence that a final bill will make it to the president's desk sometime this fall. The ball is in the House's court, where GOP leaders have been reluctant to move toward a conference committee with the Senate. Still, staff members from the House and Senate Agriculture committees met over the congressional recess to walk through what needs to take place to get their two versions of the bill reconciled.

Our Asks:

- Many of you are a part of the agriculture and wildlife working group. What is this group doing pro-actively to make sure House Leadership moves a 5 year farm bill that protects conservation priorities?
- Clearly if we get an extension of just a year, we're looking at lower participation rates with the uncertainty involved. What are you doing to make sure you membership is activated?
- Are there any materials you need or events that would help bring attention to inaction on this vital piece of legislation?

- **Waters of the U.S.:** The group will want to discuss the effort to update the Clean Water Act definition of “Waters of the United States”. EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers have submitted a proposed rule to OIRA to clarify protection of waters under the Clean Water Act to the Office of Management and Budget for federal interagency review. The rule will provide more predictable and consistent procedures for identifying waters and wetlands protected under the Clean Water Act- and is focused on protection of smaller waters that feed into larger ones, to keep downstream water safe from upstream pollutants. The focus is also on reaffirming protection for wetlands that filter pollution and store water and help keep communities safe from floods. The Administration has also heard requests from Congress, industry organizations, environmental groups, states and the public for rulemaking to further clarify the requirements of the Clean Water Act consistent with decisions of the Supreme Court. The agencies propose to NOT finalize the guidance, but instead to start rulemaking and the stakeholders will want to know the timing and next steps on this.

Our Asks:

- You all have asked us to move forward on this rulemaking and clarification, and everyone here knows the vulnerabilities we have with certain constituencies. Can we count on you all to amplify with your members and the public in states and local areas where this will be of significance?
- The Administrator and her staff have done significant outreach on this matter, but both her and Secretary Vilsack will continue to be available if there is additional amplification that you all would suggest. Please let us know if you have any ideas.
- **Bristol Bay and Pebble Mine:** The group will want to know more about the status of the revised draft Bristol Bay assessment on the Pebble Mine application, and the status of the project. Specifically they will want to know if EPA has any intention of using section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act which gives EPA the power to prohibit, restrict, or deny U.S. Army Corps permits for discharge into wetlands if such permits that pose an unacceptable adverse impact to fisheries or other water uses. While CWA Section 404(c) has never been used to deny a project proponent the right to apply for permits, EPA has the legal authority to do so. The group will encourage it’s use, or some commitment to restrict permitting and prevent construction of the Pebble Mine.

TP’s

- We appreciate your patience in allowing EPA to finish their scientific assessment. Once that assessment is final, we should be able to make a more informed decision with regards to EPA authorities and whether they should or could be used.
- Who are the members of Congress outside of the PNW who are willing to weigh in?
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund:** A more specific issue that the group will raise and request support on is the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the federal government’s main vehicle for acquiring new lands and securing conservation easements on private lands. While funding for the program increased slightly in the first term of the Obama Administration, the House Interior and Environment Subcommittee’s recent bill proposed to zero out funding for the LWCF entirely. LWCF provides for national park, forest and wildlife refuge and Bureau of Land Management area fee and easement acquisitions. Each year, based on priority recommendations from the federal land management agencies

(NPS, USFS, FWS, BLM), the President can forward these recommendations to Congress requesting funding for specific LWCF projects supporting land acquisition, habitat protection, and outdoor recreation.

Our Asks:

- LWCF has had significant bipartisan support in the past, and we know much of the reason is due to support from sportsmen's groups. Do you have any current ideas on how best to advance future LWCF funding?
- How would linking support for Secure Rural Schools / Payment in Lieu of Taxes help/hurt the LWCF cause?
- The President has been firmly committed to full and mandatory funding of LWCF, but in order to get there we're going to need some additional congressional champions and some significantly louder volume from state and local interests. Have you all ramped up your efforts in this space in the wake up of the House bill to zero funding?
- **Wildfire Funding:** Sportsmen are beginning to recognize that the current dynamic agencies face during the wildfire season of having to borrow from other natural resource program accounts to pay the fire suppression bill, is having an increasingly disruptive and strong impact on wildlife. Often times such borrowing is drawing from programs that help to reduce hazardous fuels, let alone programs that benefit wildlife habitat. Sportsmen may press for a budgetary funding fix to wildland fire management so federal agencies do not have to tap or impact wildlife related programs, as well as seek a mechanism to pay for more restoration work, which can help to mitigate wildfire impacts and simultaneously benefit wildlife.

Our Asks:

- How can we reduce Congressional tendency to use wildfire funding during lower intensity fire seasons for non-fire related offsets?
- What are the most important wildlife programs being impacted by wildfire shortfalls and what can be done to highlight?